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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

O'BRIEN et al

Atty. Ref.: 36-1148

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

Filed: 18 March 1998

Examiner:

**For: SERVICE PROVISION SYSTEM FOR USE IN
DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING ENVIRONMENTS**

March 18, 1998

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before (numbered) line 4, insert:

-- Related Application

This is a continuation-in-part of our co-pending commonly assigned U.S. application Serial No. 08/695,528 filed 6 June 1996. --.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 3, line 1, delete "either one of the preceding claims" and insert ..

-- claim 1 --.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert

-- claim 1 --.